

Please **AMEND** the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS: CLAIM AMENDMENTS CLEAN VERSION

Please **SUBSTITUTE** the following claims for the pending claims of the same number. The claims that have been amended herein are so labeled and indicated in bold face font:

C1
1. **(TWICE AMENDED)** A method for directing a computing device to conduct a game of chance, the method comprising the steps of:
generating a subject game element having a first class;
displaying the subject game element, thereby displaying an indicia of the first class;
in response to expiration of a period of time that is measured from a time of player selection of the subject game element having the first class, assigning a second class to the subject game element; and
displaying the subject game element, thereby displaying an indicia of the second class.

36. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
assigning the first class to a second subject game element; and
displaying the indicia of the first class simultaneously with the indicia of the second class.

37. The method of claim 1, further comprising erasing the indicia of the first class.

C2
38. A method for directing a computing device to conduct a game of chance, the method comprising the steps of:
generating a subject game element having a first class;
displaying the subject game element, thereby displaying an indicia of the first class; and
displaying an indicia representing forthcoming expiration of the first class corresponding to the subject game element.

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39. The method of claim 38, wherein the step of displaying an indicia representing forthcoming expiration of the first class includes displaying a countdown display.

40. A method for directing a computing device to conduct a game of chance, the method comprising the steps of:
generating a subject game element having a first class;
displaying the subject game element, thereby displaying an indicia of the first class; and
actuating a lock button to prevent the subject game element from expiring.

Please **ADD** the following new claims:

41. (NEW) An apparatus, comprising:

a storage device; and
a processor in communication with the storage device,
the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and
the processor operative with the program to:
perform the method of claim 1.

42. (NEW) A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:
the method of claim 1.

3 43. (NEW) An apparatus, comprising:

a storage device; and
a processor in communication with the storage device,
the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and
the processor operative with the program to:
perform the method of claim 38. 31

4 44. (NEW) A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:
the method of claim 38. 31

45. (NEW) An apparatus, comprising:

a storage device; and
a processor in communication with the storage device,
the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and
the processor operative with the program to:
perform the method of claim 40.

46. (NEW) A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:
the method of claim 40.